

**FRESNO, CA --** Congressman Jim Costa (D-Fresno) is seeking local high school students interested in attending the prestigious service academies in the United States. Applications are available to all high school students residing in the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District in both of Costa's district offices, located in Fresno and Bakersfield. The deadline for submission is Friday, November 9, 2007.

“Our nation's service academies are some of the top universities in the world, and some of the greatest heroes in our nation's history have attended them. Cadets who graduate from any of the service academies come away with great discipline and leadership abilities that are useful in the military, and any other career path graduates may choose,” said Costa.

Students wishing to attend a service academy must obtain a Congressional appointment, and complete an application obtained from Costa's office. Qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview with Costa's Academy Selection Committee, which is composed of community leaders in the 20<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The Committee and Costa will seek out well-rounded individuals who meet the rigorous academic, leadership, and community involvement standards.

Those students in Fresno and Kings Counties who would like more information or an application can contact Kelly Gill in Costa's Fresno District Office at (559) 495-1620, or stop by the office located at 855 “M” Street, Fresno, CA. Students in Kern County should contact Nicole Villaruz in Costa's Bakersfield District Office at (661) 869-1620, or stop by the office located at 2700 “M” Street, Bakersfield, CA.